BEGINNING: THE SWAMP RATS..
A FEW YEARS AGO, A SHIP CARRYING 'LIFERS' TO A PRISON COLONY~
THE CONDEMNED MEN, IN CHAINS, LINE THE DECK~
WHEN THE GUARDS CHANGE~ WE GO!
WILSON McCOY 6-15
NOW!
~THE DECK BECOMES A BEDLAM OF FIGHTING MEN!
GET THAT BLACK-SMITH UP ON DECK.
ON THE PRISON SHIP THE CONDEMNED CONVICTS TAKE OVER
RIGHT, OTTER!
YOU PUT 'EM ON. GET 'EM OFF, AND MAKE IT SNAPPY, MAC.
GULP~ YES~
YOU MEN ARE ALL LIFERS~ KNOWN TO POLICE EVERYWHERE. THERE'S NO PLACE FOR YOU TO GO.
WISE GUY~
WILSON McCOY 6-16
NO~~ OTTER~!
SHADDUP. I'M RUNNIN' THINGS. NEVER LIKED THAT CAPTAIN~~
THE CONVICTS DESTROY THE SHIP'S RUDDER~
~DEMOLISH THE ENGINE ROOM AND RADIO~
HAVE FUN, BOYS. YOU'VE GOT A LONG WAY TO DRIFT. IF YOU'RE LUCKY YOU WON'T HIT A STORM!
THE CONVICTS TAKE OFF, LEAVING THE SHIP ADRIFT..
WILSON McCOY 6-17
WHERE WE HEADED, OTTER?
THE BIG SWAMP!
THE MISSING PRISON SHIP~ ADRIFT~
NO RADIO SIGNALS. MAKE READY TO BOARD.
MUTINIED A WEEK AGO~ KILLED THE CAPTAIN~ THREE MEN~ LUCKY WE WEREN'T ALL KILLED~
THEIR LEADER~ OTTER~ WANTED TO~
THE ESCAPED CONVICTS DIVIDE~
THOSE WHO DON'T WANT TO STAY WITH ME~ SCRAM.
I'M HEADED FOR CITY LIGHTS.
ME TOO!
WHERE IS THIS SWAMP, OTTER?
COUPLE OF MILES THE WORLD'S GREATEST HIDEOUT!
WILSON McCOY 6-18
TOMORROW: GREAT SWAMP.

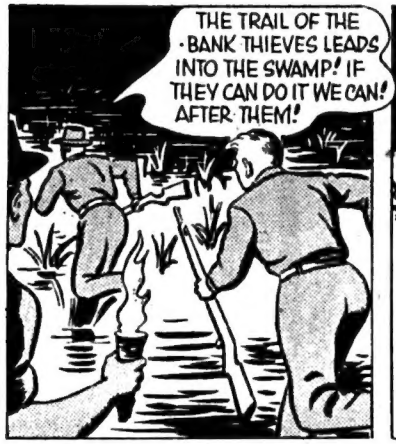
FOLLOW ME, SINGLE FILE
I GREW UP IN THIS SWAMP~ MY OLD MAN WAS A TRAPPER.
UH~UH~ PULLIN' ME DOWN~!
SEE WHAT I MEAN? UNLESS YOU KNOW THE UNDER-WATER PATHS, YOU'RE SUNK!
HANG ON, STUPID. WHEN I SAY SINGLE FILE, I MEAN SINGLE FILE!
I'M THE ONLY MAN ALIVE WHO KNOWS THESE UNDERWATER PATHS~ I'LL TEACH 'EM TO YOU~
NOBODY'LL EVER FIND US IN HERE.
WILSON McCOY 6-19
Blue Mountains
THE GREAT SWAMP~~A HUNDRED-MILE STRETCH OF GOO AND QUICKSAND~
GREAT SWAMP
Tiger Lake
EVERYONE AVOIDS THE SWAMP~~
IT'S WORTH YOUR LIFE TO GET INTO THAT STUFF~ NOBODY'S EVER GOTTEN OUT~
EVEN ON THE JUNGLE SIDE THE NATIVES FEAR IT~
~ALL EXCEPT THE RENEGADE CONVICT GANG~ SOON KNOWN AS "THE SWAMP RATS"
WILSON McCOY 6-20
OUT OF THE TRUCKS~ THIS IS A HOLD-UP!
TAKE OFF~ BEFORE WE CHANGE OUR MINDS!
EASY AS TAKING CANDY FROM A BABY.
EASIER, MAN, ALL THESE CANNED GOODS!
AND THE "SWAMP RATS" HAVE DONE THEIR FIRST JOB"!
WILSON McCOY 6-22
AROUND THAT BEND~ MASKED MEN STOPPED OUR TRUCKS~
HALT HERE~ LOAD RIFLES~ PROCEED ON FOOT!
THEY BURNED THE TRUCKS!
THEIR FOOTPRINTS! FOLLOW THEM!
INTO THE GREAT SWAMP? IMPOSSIBLE! NO ONE DARES ENTER IT.
COULD YOU IDENTIFY THEM?
IDENTIFY? THEY WERE MASKED!
WILSON McCOY 6-23

RRINNG
A MIDNIGHT RAID ON A SMALL-TOWN BANK NEAR THE SWAMP.
BANK

~THE MASKED 'SWAMP RATS' ESCAPE IN STOLEN CARS~~
!!

A POSSE IS QUICKLY FORMED~~
AFTER THEM~THEY HEADED FOR THE SWAMP!
WILSON McCOY 6-24

THEY ABANDONED THE CARS~WENT INTO THE SWAMP! AFTER THEM!
INTO~THE GREAT SWAMP?


THE TRAIL OF THE BANK THIEVES LEADS INTO THE SWAMP! IF THEY CAN DO IT WE CAN! AFTER THEM!

HELP~QUICK-SAND~
MUDDY GOO~
GET ROPES~BOARDS~HURRY!

NO MAN~OR BEAST CAN ENTER THAT SWAMP AND COME OUT ALIVE~

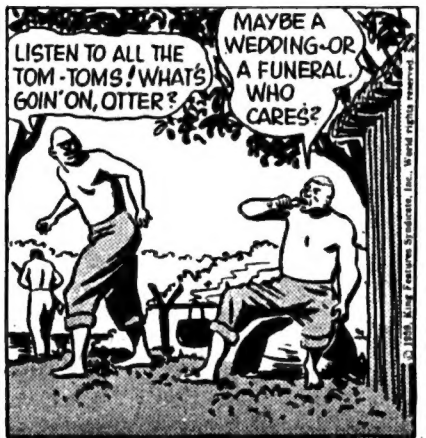
AT LEAST WE KNOW THE THIEVES ARE DEAD~
~UNDER THE MUD WITH OUR MONEY~
WILSON McCOY 6-25

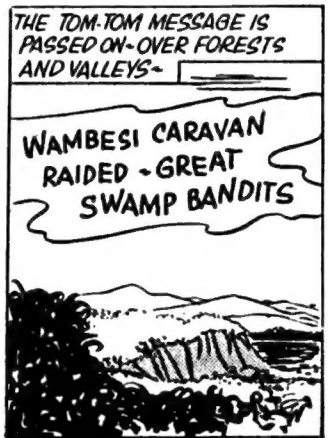
A JUNGLE TRAIL NEAR THE GREAT SWAMP~WHERE NATIVE CARAVANS TRAVEL~~

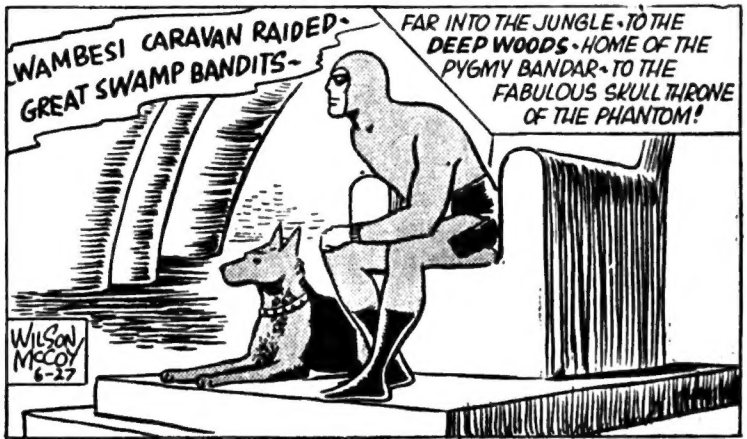
THE 'SWAMP RATS' ATTACK A RICH WAMBESI CARAVAN~

EVEN THE BOLD WAMBESI FEAR THE UNKNOWN SWAMP~
THOSE NATIVES CAN'T FOLLOW US.
MAN, WE GOT IT MADE!
WILSON McCOY 6-26

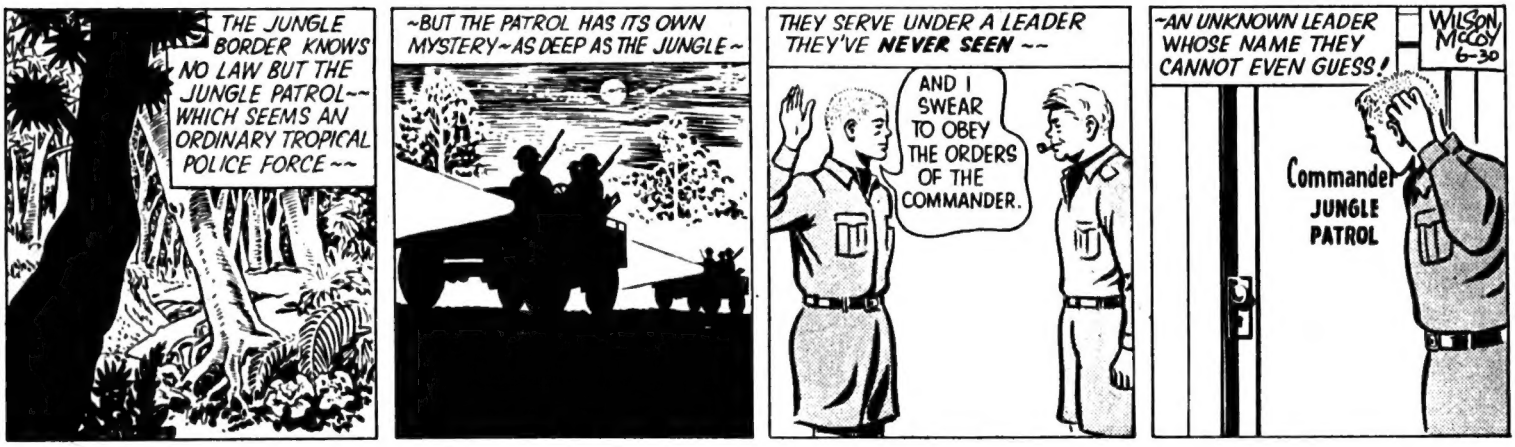
WAMBESI CARAVAN RAIDED BY GREAT SWAMP BANDITS
BUT THE CONFIDENT 'SWAMP RATS' HAVE MADE THEIR FIRST MISTAKE!

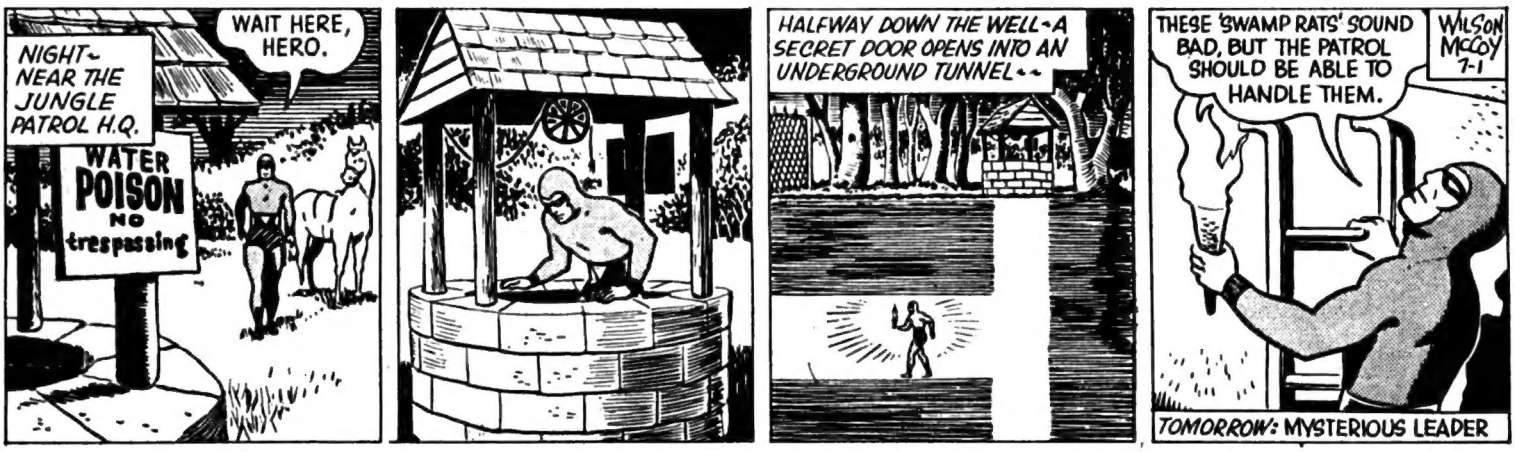

LISTEN TO ALL THE TOM-TOMS! WHAT'S GOIN' ON, OTTER?
MAYBE A WEDDING~OR A FUNERAL. WHO CARES?

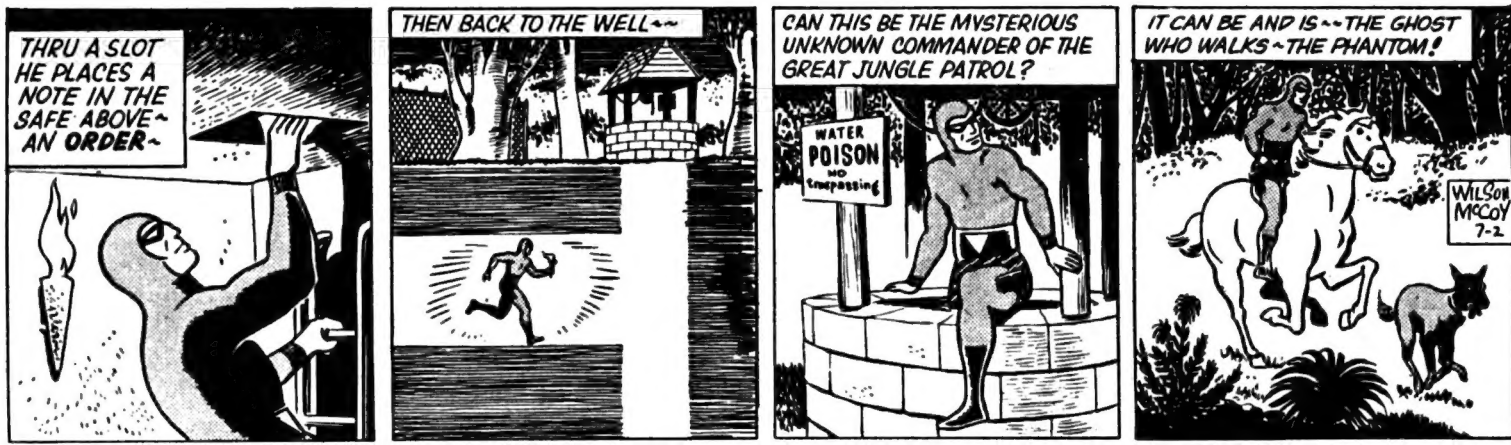

THE TOM-TOM MESSAGE IS PASSED ON~OVER FORESTS AND VALLEYS~
WAMBESI CARAVAN RAIDED~GREAT SWAMP BANDITS


WAMBESI CARAVAN RAIDED~GREAT SWAMP BANDITS~
FAR INTO THE JUNGLE~TO THE DEEP WOODS~HOME OF THE PYGMY BANDAR~TO THE FABULOUS SKULL THRONE OF THE PHANTOM!
WILSON McCOY 6-27

-- CARAVAN-RAIDED -- GREAT SWAMP BANDITS
THE TOM-TOM MESSAGE REACHES THE DEEP WOODS
WHO ARE THESE BANDITS, GURAN?
NO ONE KNOWS. THEY RAID TOWN AND JUNGLE ALIKE~~ AND HIDE IN THE GREAT SWAMP...
THEY ARE KNOWN AS THE 'SWAMP RATS'. ~~ NO ONE KNOWS HOW THEY EXIST THERE. NO ONE ELSE DARES ENTER.
THE GREAT SWAMP BORDERS THE JUNGLE. THIS IS A MATTER FOR THE PATROL.
WILSON McCOY 6-29
TOMORROW: THE JUNGLE PATROL


THE JUNGLE BORDER KNOWS NO LAW BUT THE JUNGLE PATROL~~ WHICH SEEMS AN ORDINARY TROPICAL POLICE FORCE~~
~BUT THE PATROL HAS ITS OWN MYSTERY~AS DEEP AS THE JUNGLE~
THEY SERVE UNDER A LEADER THEY'VE NEVER SEEN ~~
AND I SWEAR TO OBEY THE ORDERS OF THE COMMANDER.
~AN UNKNOWN LEADER WHOSE NAME THEY CANNOT EVEN GUESS!
WILSON McCOY 6-30
Commander JUNGLE PATROL


NIGHT~ NEAR THE JUNGLE PATROL H.Q.
WAIT HERE, HERO.
WATER POISON NO trespassing
HALFWAY DOWN THE WELL~A SECRET DOOR OPENS INTO AN UNDERGROUND TUNNEL~~
THESE 'SWAMP RATS' SOUND BAD, BUT THE PATROL SHOULD BE ABLE TO HANDLE THEM.
WILSON McCOY 7-1
TOMORROW: MYSTERIOUS LEADER


THRU A SLOT HE PLACES A NOTE IN THE SAFE ABOVE~ AN ORDER~
THEN BACK TO THE WELL~~
CAN THIS BE THE MYSTERIOUS UNKNOWN COMMANDER OF THE GREAT JUNGLE PATROL?
WATER POISON NO trespassing
IT CAN BE AND IS~~THE GHOST WHO WALKS~THE PHANTOM!
WILSON McCOY 7-2

JONES, YOUR FIRST DAY IN THE PATROL. IT'S OUR CUSTOM FOR NEW MEN TO MAKE THIS VISIT WITH ME.
YES, COLONEL.
Commander JUNGLE PATROL
I COME HERE EACH MORNING FOR ORDERS.
BARE ROOM~NO WINDOWS~JUST A SAFE~~
Oo.
THERE IS AN ORDER THIS MORNING! FIRST ONE IN WEEKS.
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WILSON McCOY 7-3
To Col. Weeks, C.O. Jungle Patrol
Bandits in Great Swamp --known as Swamp Rats. Take immediate steps to capture
Commander, J.P.
COLONEL, SIR, ER~ GULP~ABOUT THAT ORDER. DOESN'T IT SEEM ODD?
ODD?
To Col. Weeks, C.O. Jungle Patrol
Bandits in Great Swamp --known as Swamp Rats. Take immediate steps to capture
Commander, J.P.
~HOW DO THE ORDERS GET HERE~ ~IN THAT SAFE?
JONES, YOU'RE NEW. WE NEVER ASK SUCH QUESTIONS IN THE PATROL~
~AND WE DON'T KNOW OUR COMMANDER~ ISN'T THAT ODD?
YOU GET USED TO IT. IT WORKS. FORGET IT.
Commander JUNGLE PATROL
THIRTY YEARS IN THE PATROL~AND IT STILL SEEMS ODD TO ME~!
HMM~ SWAMP RATS~
WILSON McCOY 7-4
AT JUNGLE PATROL H.Q.
ABOUT TWENTY IN THIS GANG~TERRORIZING THE DISTRICT. JONES, THIS WILL BE YOUR FIRST MISSION. SERGEANT COLE WILL BE WITH YOU. TAKE OFF.
YES, SIR.
YES, SIR!
Bandits in Great Swamp Take immediate steps to capture.
Commander J.P.
TWO OF US~AGAINST TWENTY BANDITS! THAT'S TEN TO ONE!
NOT BAD, JONES.
IN THE PATROL, WE FIGURE IF IT'S LESS THAN TWENTY TO ONE AGAINST US, WE HAVE THE EDGE.
WILSON McCOY 7-6
THIS IS THE LAST TRACE WE HAD OF THOSE SWAMP RATS~THEY WENT IN HERE.
~~BUT NOBODY CAN FOLLOW 'EM INTO THAT MUCK~~
IF THEY WENT IN, SO CAN WE!
JUNGLE PATROL! OTTER, THOSE GUYS ARE POISON!
YEAH, TRAINED LIKE NATIVES~ TOUGH AS NAILS~
BUT WE CAN HANDLE THEM~AND EVERYTHING ELSE~IN THIS SWAMP!
THEY'RE COMIN' IN!
WILSON McCOY 7-7

IF THOSE SWAMP RATS CAN GO IN HERE~ SO CAN WE. WATCH YOUR STEP. THIS MUD'S LIKE QUICKSAND!
TEST EVERY STEP FOR SOLID GROUND~
CAN'T SEE ANYTHING IN THIS MUDDY WATER.

TURN BACK NOW
BEFORE YOU DIE
IN THE MUD~
?
?
YOU, HAVEN'T A CHANCE
WILSON McCOY 7-8

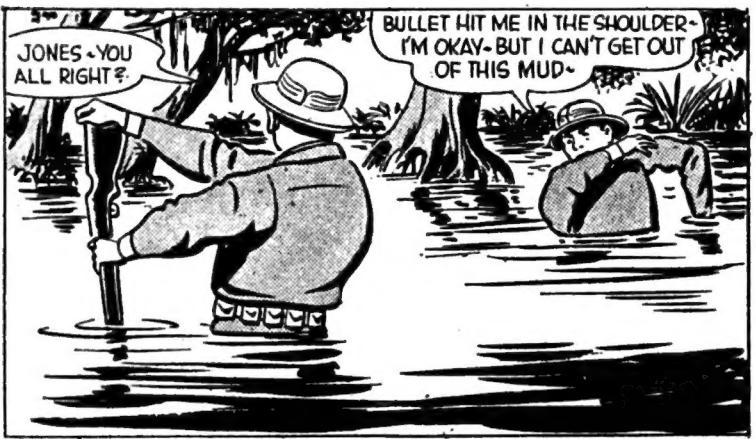
TURN BACK, JUNGLE PATROL~
OR YOU'RE DEAD DUCKS.
DON'T LET THEM RATTLE YOU, JONES. DON'T FIRE UNLESS THEY DO~
FIRE~ WHERE? I CAN'T SEE THEM~
TURN BACK~

THERE'S ONE! YOU'RE UNDER ARREST, ORDER OF JUNGLE PATROL!
COME GET ME, TIN SOLDIER.

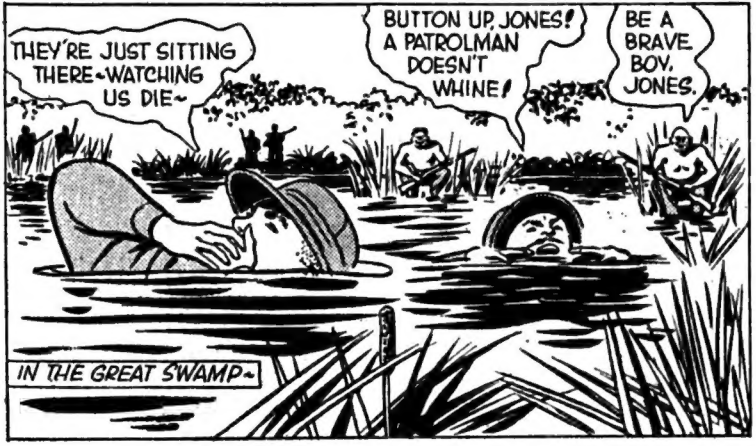
WHY~ YOU~~! UH~ MUD!
WILSON McCOY 7-9

SINKING FAST, JONES! DON'T COME AFTER ME. TOSS ME A ROPE END.
I'M OKAY HERE! CATCH, SARGE!

WILSON McCOY 7-10


JONES~ YOU ALL RIGHT?
BULLET HIT ME IN THE SHOULDER~ I'M OKAY~ BUT I CAN'T GET OUT OF THIS MUD~

HOW YOU LIKE THE GREAT SWAMP, JUNGLE PATROLMEN?
GOT ANY CIGARETTES TO LEAVE US?
YOU WON'T NEED THEM WHERE YOU'RE GOIN.
JONES~ TRY TO GET BACK TO THE PATH!
WILSON McCOY 7-11


THEY'RE JUST SITTING THERE~WATCHING US DIE~
BUTTON UP, JONES! A PATROLMAN DOESN'T WHINE!
BE A BRAVE BOY, JONES.
IN THE GREAT SWAMP~

WILSON McCOY 7-13

OKAY, BOYS. THE FIGHT'S OUT OF THEM. PULL THEM OUT!
WHY, OTTER?

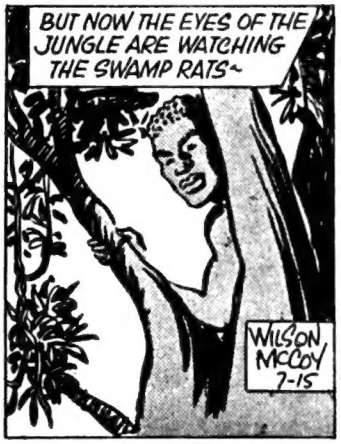
DON'T ASK QUESTIONS! DO WHAT I SAID! PULL 'EM OUT!
OKAY, OTTER!
STILL BREATHIN'~ BUT BARELY.

NOW WE GOT THESE PATROL BOYS OUT, WHAT'LL WE DO WITH THEM?
AS SOON AS YOU PIPE DOWN, I'LL TELL YOU.

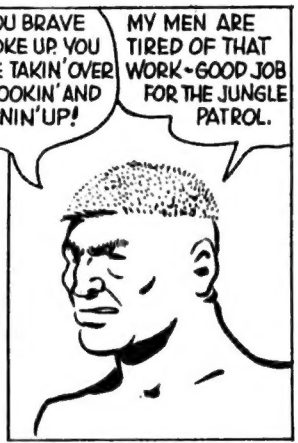
HALF-DROWNED SGT. COLE OF THE JUNGLE PATROL!
WILSON McCOY 7-14

BLASTED PATROL MAN~ I THOUGHT HE WAS OUT!
HE IS~ NOW.
HOW'D YOU LIKE THAT? HALF-DROWNED WITH MUD~AND FULL OF FIGHT! THESE PATROLMEN ARE TOUGH.

WHY'D YOU SAVE THESE GUYS, OTTER?
BECAUSE THERE'S LOTS MORE WHERE THEY CAME FROM, STUPID.


BUT NOW THE EYES OF THE JUNGLE ARE WATCHING THE SWAMP RATS~
WILSON McCOY 7-15

IN THE MIDDLE OF THE GREAT SWAMP~
THEY'VE GOT US HOBBLED!


TIME YOU BRAVE BOYS WOKE UP. YOU TWO ARE TAKIN' OVER THE COOKIN' AND CLEANIN' UP!
MY MEN ARE TIRED OF THAT WORK~GOOD JOB FOR THE JUNGLE PATROL.

I CAN USE THESE DOG TAGS!
WILSON McCOY 7-16
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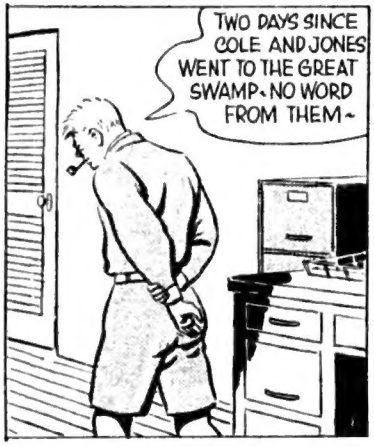
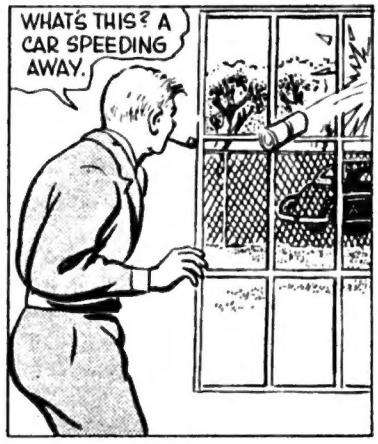
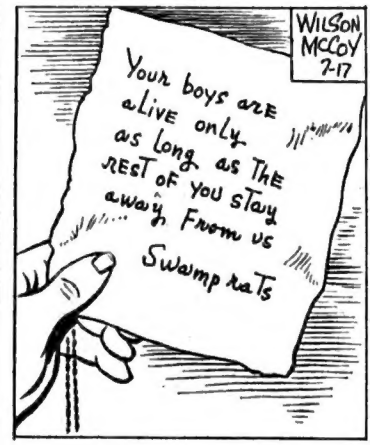
YOU'LL ALWAYS BE WATCHED~DON'T TRY RUNNIN' AWAY. NEXT TIME WE'LL LET YOU SINK!

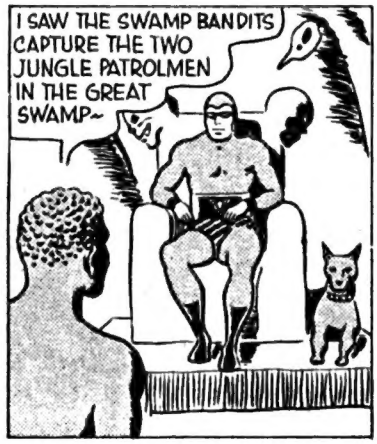

TWO DAYS SINCE COLE AND JONES WENT TO THE GREAT SWAMP~NO WORD FROM THEM~

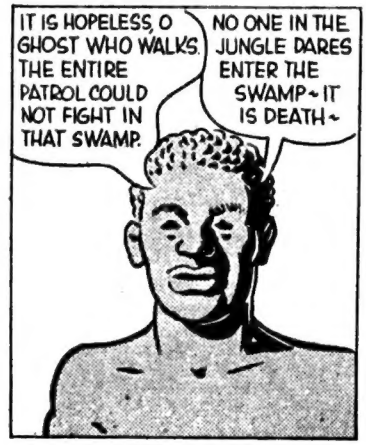

WHAT'S THIS? A CAR SPEEDING AWAY.

DOG TAGS~COLE AND JONES~A NOTE!

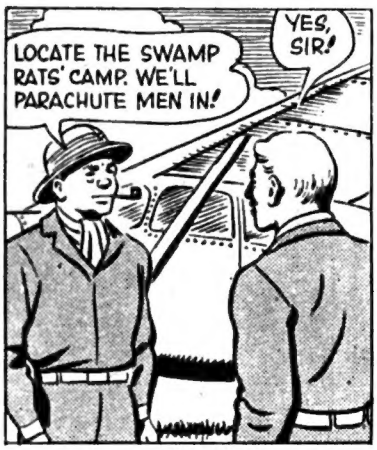

WILSON McCOY 7-17
Your boys are alive only as long as the rest of you stay away from us
Swamp rats

A JUNGLE SCOUT REACHES THE DEEP WOODS
MESSAGE FOR PHANTOM.
ENTER.


I SAW THE SWAMP BANDITS CAPTURE THE TWO JUNGLE PATROLMEN IN THE GREAT SWAMP~


IT IS HOPELESS, O GHOST WHO WALKS. THE ENTIRE PATROL COULD NOT FIGHT IN THAT SWAMP.
NO ONE IN THE JUNGLE DARES ENTER THE SWAMP~IT IS DEATH~

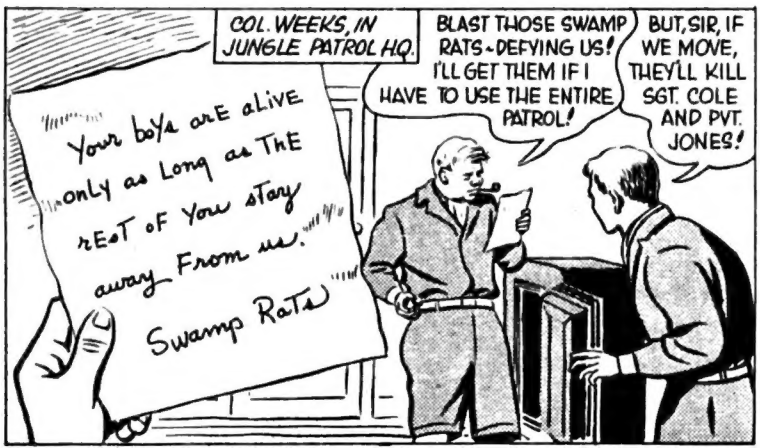
WE'LL SEE! COME, HERO~COME, DEVIL!
WILSON McCOY 7-18


LOCATE THE SWAMP RATS' CAMP. WE'LL PARACHUTE MEN IN!
YES, SIR!

DOUSE THAT FIRE! TAKE COVER! PLANE COMING!

BUT THE HIDE-OUT IS CLEVERLY CAMOUFLAGED~~
WILSON McCOY 7-20

SORRY, COLONEL. WE'VE BEEN OVER THE WHOLE SWAMP. THE CAMP MUST BE UNDERWATER!


COL. WEEKS, IN JUNGLE PATROL H.Q.
Your boys are alive only as long as the rest of you stay away from us.
Swamp Rats
BLAST THOSE SWAMP RATS~DEFYING US! I'LL GET THEM IF I HAVE TO USE THE ENTIRE PATROL!
BUT, SIR, IF WE MOVE, THEY'LL KILL SGT. COLE AND PVT. JONES!

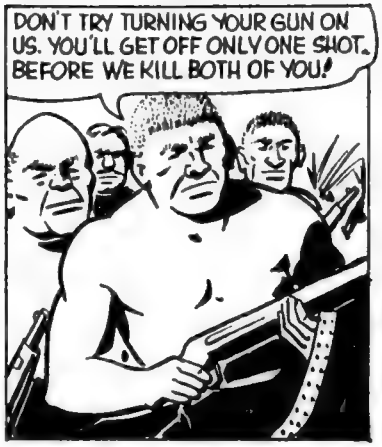
BANDITS CAN'T BLACKMAIL THE PATROL! WE KNOW HOW TO FIGHT~AND DIE!

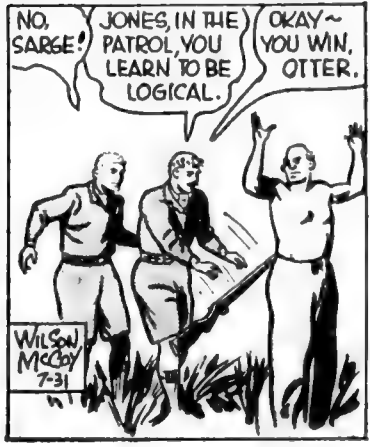
UNDERGROUND, BENEATH THE J.P. H.Q.~FROM A HIDDEN MICROPHONE~
CALL GENERAL ASSEMBLY! I'LL USE EVERY SPARE MAN!
WILSON McCOY 7-21

GENERAL ASSEMBLY! AFTER MIDNIGHT!
WHAT'S HAPPENED?
MEN, I'M SORRY TO PULL YOU OUT OF THE SACK AT THIS HOUR~
THE SWAMP RATS HAVE CAPTURED COLE AND JONES~
~HOLDING THEM AS HOSTAGES SO WE'LL LET THEM ALONE!
I'M SENDING FIVE HUNDRED MEN INTO THAT SWAMP WITH MORTARS AND GRENADES!
WE MOVE IN HALF AN HOUR! FULL GEAR!
NO, WE DON'T, COLONEL.
WILSON McCOY 7-22
I CAN'T LET THE WHOLE JUNGLE PATROL DIE IN THAT MISERABLE SWAMP~THEY HAVEN'T A CHANCE THERE~
WELL WATER CONTAMINATED STAY AWAY
HE MOVES SWIFTLY IN THE SECRET TUNNEL BENEATH JUNGLE PATROL H.Q.
PLACING A NOTE IN THE SLIDING PANEL, HE PRESSES A BUTTON~
Commander JUNGLE PATROL
WILSON McCOY 7-23
WE'RE OFF~~
COLONEL WEEKS! THE SIGNAL LIGHT!
THAT SIGNAL LIGHT HASN'T GONE ON IN YEARS. IT MEANS AN EMERGENCY ORDER~
~~FROM THE COMMANDER! YES~THERE'S ONE HERE!
Col. Weeks Co. J.P.
Cancel move against swamp bandits.
Send no more patrolmen.
Commander J.P.
WILSON McCOY 7-24
NO~ NO!
HE CAN'T MEAN THIS! HE CAN'T!
ORDERS, SIR?
Col. Weeks Co. J.P.
Cancel move against swamp bandits.
Send no more patrolmen.
Commander J.P.
MISSION CANCELED. SEND THE MEN BACK TO THEIR BUNKS.
ONCE AGAIN, COL. WEEKS, JUNGLE PATROL~
HOW CAN HE DO THIS? ABANDON OUR MEN TO THOSE SWAMP RATS~ LET THEM BLACKMAIL US!
~~AS COUNTLESS J.P. COLONELS BEFORE HIM~HE FACES THE ANCIENT MYSTERY~THEIR UNKNOWN COMMANDER.
!?
WILSON McCOY 7-25

COMMANDER-WHOEVER YOU ARE-WHEREVER YOU ARE-THIS IS WRONG! WE CANNOT ABANDON OUR MEN TO THOSE SWAMP RATS-
IT'D BE A DISGRACE TO THE PATROL.
COLONEL, THE SIGNAL LIGHT'S ON.
Col. Weeks
ANOTHER ORDER FROM THE COMMANDER! MAYBE HE CHANGED HIS MIND! HE MUST--
Col. Weeks, C.O. J.P.
Relax, Colonel, I'll handle this one, myself.
Commander J. P.
WILSON McCOY 7-27
THE JUNGLE PATROL WOULDA SHOWED BY NOW.
OUR WARNING SCARED 'EM OFF!
HOW ABOUT THAT? THE GREAT JUNGLE PATROL-YELLOW! AFRAID TO COME AFTER THEIR MEN!
NO PATROL. LOOKS LIKE YOUR BUDDIES DITCHED YOU TWO.
THIS SWAMP'S GOT THEM ALL BUFFALOED.
I DON'T BELIEVE IT. THEY WOULDN'T DESERT US, COLE.
HMM
WILSON McCOY 7-28
HOW COULD THE PATROL DESERT US?
THE COLONEL DOESN'T WANT TO SACRIFICE MORE MEN IN THIS SWAMP. HE'S RIGHT-WE'RE ON OUR OWN.
DON'T TAKE YOUR EYE OFF THOSE GUYS. THEY'RE PATROLMEN-AND TOUGH.
SURE, OTTER-SURE,
THAT STEW SMELLS GOOD, TIN SOLDIER. HOW ABOUT A SAMPLE?
WHY NOT?
WILSON McCOY 7-29
!
ALL YOU WANT!
JONES-GET BEHIND HIM!
SARGE-THAT WAS GREAT!
WE'RE NOT OUT YET!
COULDN'T HELP IT-TOSSED STEW IN MY FACE-
DROP YOUR GUNS-OR I'LL PLUG HIM-HE'S LEADING US OUT OF THIS SWAMP!
YOU KIDDING? YOU DROP THE GUN OR WE'LL SHOOT HIM AND THEN YOU!
WILSON McCOY 7-30

YOU HEARD ME~DROP THE RIFLE~OR WE'LL SHOOT HIM AND THEN YOU!
SARGE, THEY CAN'T MEAN IT~KILL THEIR OWN MAN?
THEY MEAN IT!


DON'T TRY TURNING YOUR GUN ON US. YOU'LL GET OFF ONLY ONE SHOT. BEFORE WE KILL BOTH OF YOU!


NO, SARGE!
JONES, IN THE PATROL, YOU LEARN TO BE LOGICAL.
OKAY~YOU WIN, OTTER.
WILSON McCOY 7-31

OTTER~WOULD YOU HAVE KILLED ME~SHOT ME TO GET THEM~OR WERE YOU BLUFFING? UH~
BLUFFING?

GET THIS~ALL OF YOU! WHEN YOU'RE ON GUARD DUTY WITH THESE PATROLMEN~STAY SHARP~OR PAY WITH YOUR LIVES!

SHOULDA KNOWN~NO HONOR AMONG SWAMP RATS~THEY'D KILL EACH OTHER AS QUICKLY AS US~
NOW WE'LL NEVER GET OUT~
WILSON McCOY 8-1

AT THE EDGE OF THE GREAT SWAMP.

NO HARD FEELINGS 'CAUSE YOU TRIED TO MAKE A BREAK. YOU TRIED AND LOST.
YOU WON'T GET ANOTHER CHANCE~AFTER THIS YOU SLEEP TIED UP AND GUARDED!
THANKS.

WE'RE GOING ON A GRUB RAID. YOU FOUR GUYS COME WITH ME~THE REST OF YOU STAY AWAKE HERE!

CAREFULLY, THEY THREAD THEIR WAY THRU THE DEADLY SWAMP~~
WILSON McCOY 8-3

HERO~DEVIL~WAIT HERE.

AS THE SWAMP RATS MOVE THRU THE DARK SWAMP~

SEEN FROM A DISTANCE~LIKE A SINGLE FILE OF FIREFLIES~~

WILSON McCOY 8-4

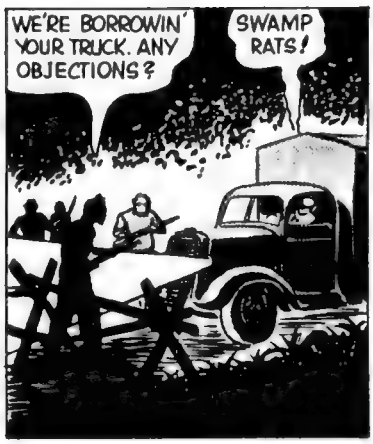
ALL RIGHT, YOU GUYS, DOUSE YOUR LIGHTS. GET TO WORK.

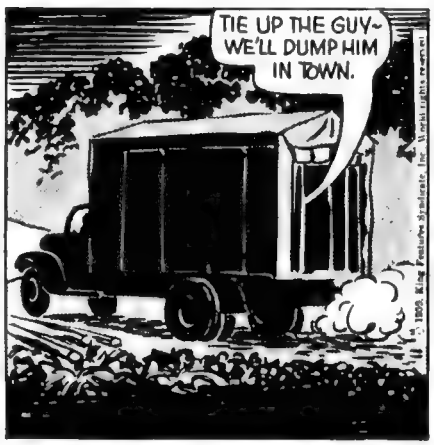
THEY KNOW THEIR WAY THRU THE SWAMP~
MUST BE UNDERWATER PATHS.

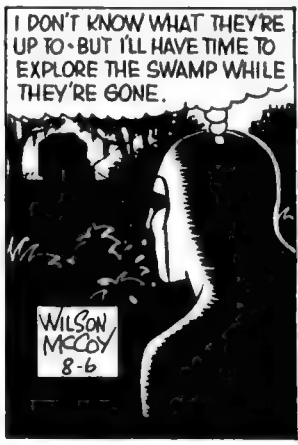
THE MISSING PATROLMEN AREN'T WITH THEM~MUST BE MORE OF THEM BACK IN THE SWAMP.
HOPE THE BOYS ARE STILL ALIVE.

WHAT ARE THEY UP TO?
WILSON McCOY 8-5

?


WE'RE BORROWIN' YOUR TRUCK. ANY OBJECTIONS?
SWAMP RATS!


TIE UP THE GUY~ WE'LL DUMP HIM IN TOWN.

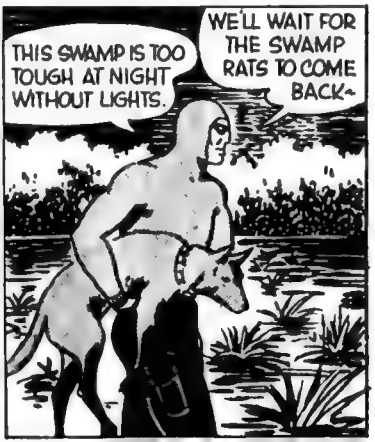

I DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY'RE UP TO~BUT I'LL HAVE TIME TO EXPLORE THE SWAMP WHILE THEY'RE GONE.
WILSON McCOY 8-6

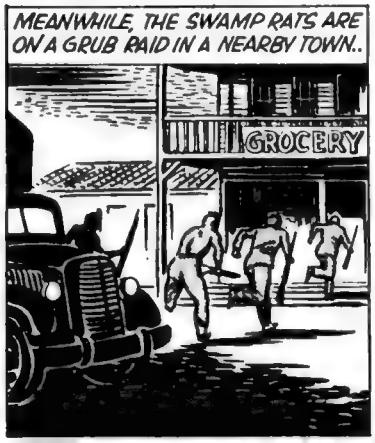
THE GOING WILL BE TOO STICKY FOR YOU, HERO~ WAIT FOR US HERE.
COME, DEVIL.

GO AHEAD, DEVIL ~TRY TO PICK OUT THE HARD PATH UNDER WATER.

GOOD BOY~ TAKE IT SLOWLY~ IF WE GET OFF THE PATHS~ THIS MUCK CAN SWALLOW AN ELEPHANT.

WHOOPS! HOLD IT, DEVIL!
THIS IS TOUGH ~IF EVEN DEVIL CAN LOSE THE WAY!
WILSON McCOY 8-7


THIS SWAMP IS TOO TOUGH AT NIGHT WITHOUT LIGHTS.
WE'LL WAIT FOR THE SWAMP RATS TO COME BACK~


MEANWHILE, THE SWAMP RATS ARE ON A GRUB RAID IN A NEARBY TOWN..
GROCERY

WE DROPPED IN TO DO A LITTLE SHOPPIN'~YOU CAN SEND US THE BILL~
STAY QUIET~ AND YOU WON'T GET HURT.
SWAMP RATS.
WILSON McCOY 8-8

BRING ANOTHER CASE OF THAT JAM. THE BOYS LIKE IT.
SOON AS YOU GET NEW STOCK IN YOUR STORE, WE'LL BE BACK TO SEE YOU.
THE SWAMP RATS ON A GRUB RAID.

MAN, THAT'S SHOPPIN'!

WILSON McCOY 8-10

THIS IS A REAL HAUL, OTTER. WE'LL HAVE TO MAKE LOTTA TRIPS~
YEAH~MAKE IT SNAPPY!

SOON AS YOU UNLOAD, COME BACK FOR MORE.
YEAH.

GUARD THIS STUFF 'TIL THE BOYS GET BACK. KEEP SHARP!
RIGHT, OTTER.

WILSON McCOY 8-11

AS A SWAMP RAT GUARDS THE LOOT OF THE GRUB RAID~

SUDDENLY, SILENTLY~IRON ARMS.

HE'LL BE QUIET FOR A FEW HOURS.
I'LL NEED HIS CLOTHES~

NOW~FOR THE SWAMP~AND THE MISSING PATROLMEN~ IF THEY'RE STILL ALIVE~
WILSON McCOY 8-12

OTTER SAYS TO GIVE A HAND WITH THIS STUFF~WE GOTTA HAUL IT ALL IN BEFORE DAWN.
YUP.

AND THE PHANTOM FOLLOWS THE SWAMP RATS ON THE HIDDEN PATHS INTO THEIR SECRET LAIR!
THIS SURE WAS A SNAP~WASN'T IT? WE REALLY GOT IT MADE~EVERYBODY'S AFRAID TO FOLLOW US.
YUP.
WILSON McCOY 8-13

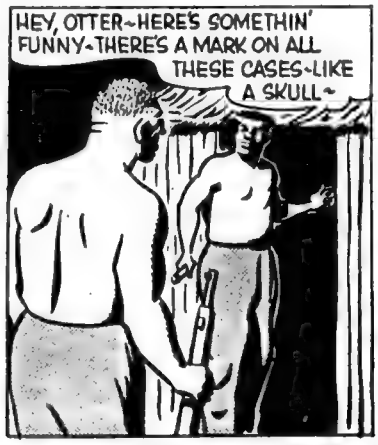
DON'T SHOVE ME~THIS IS TRICKY HERE.
YUP.

SNAP IT UP YOU GUYS! PILE THE CASES IN THE COOK SHACK AND GET BACK FOR MORE!

MAN, WE GOT A REAL HAUL THIS TIME~LOOK AT THIS~CAVIAR!

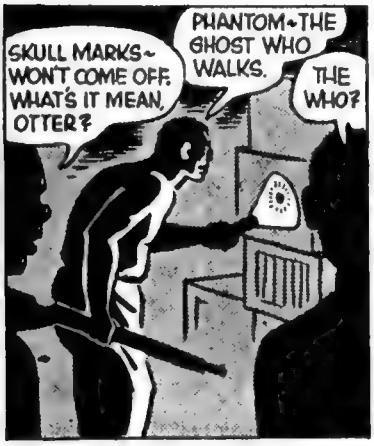
THE SIGN OF THE SKULL MARK OF THE PHANTOM!
WHAT'S THAT?
WILSON McCOY 8-14

WHAT IS THIS?


HEY, OTTER~HERE'S SOMETHIN' FUNNY~THERE'S A MARK ON ALL THESE CASES~LIKE A SKULL~

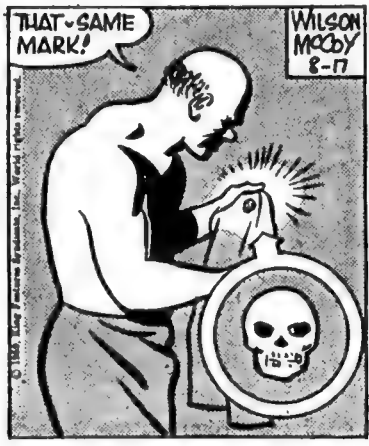
SWAMP-BRED OTTER STARES~
DEATH'S HEAD~
PHANTOM!

WILSON McCOY 8-15


SKULL MARKS~WON'T COME OFF. WHAT'S IT MEAN, OTTER?
PHANTOM~THE GHOST WHO WALKS.
THE WHO?

SWAMP-BRED OTTER KNOWS THE MARK~
IT'S JUNGLE TALK ABOUT SOME GUY WHO CAN'T DIE~SUPPOSED TO BE 400 YEARS OLD.

IT'S A LOTTA ROT. SOME JOKER DID THIS. SAY~ON YOUR SHIRT!


THAT~SAME MARK!
WILSON McCOY 8-17

HOW'D YOU GET THAT SKULL MARK ON YOUR SHIRT?
I DON'T KNOW, OTTER. WASN'T THERE WHEN I PUT IT ON THIS MORNING.
WAIT A MINUTE~TONIGHT, WHILE COMIN' THRU THE SWAMP~

~"THE GUY BEHIND ME BRUSHED AGAINST ME"
HEY~TAKE IT EASY.

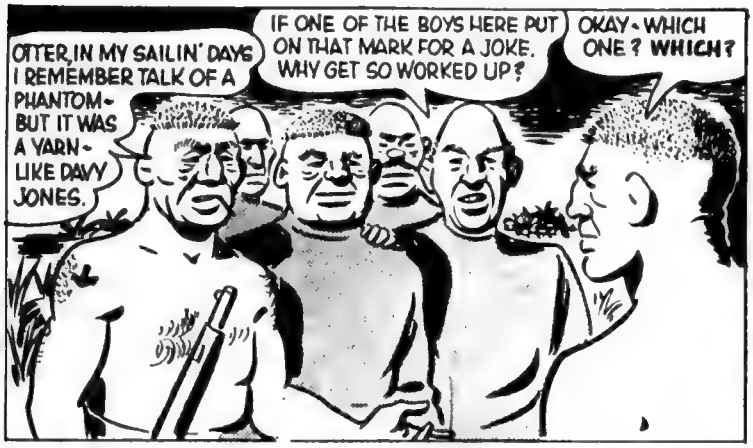
WHOEVER PUT THAT MARK ON YOU AND THE CASES FOLLOWED YOU THRU THE SWAMP~TO HERE!
WILSON McCOY 8-18

I DON'T KNOW WHO FOLLOWED ME IN THE SWAMP, OTTER. WE WERE STILL MASKED.
OTTER-WHY GET SO FUSSED BY A MARK?

"I SAW THAT MARK AS A BOY"...
ON HIS JAW PHANTOM'S MARK!

..."I HEARD THE NATIVES TALK"
THE GHOST WHO WALKS-PHAN-TOM.
CANNOT DIE.

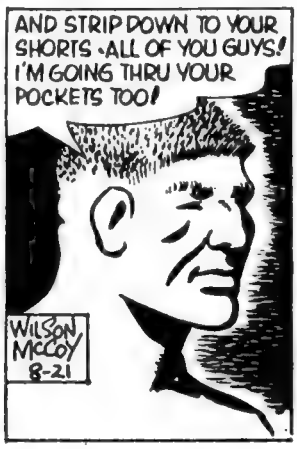
JUNGLE HOGWASH. AW, OTTER, ONE OF THE BOYS MUSTA DONE IT-
OKAY-- WHICH ONE?
WILSON McCOY 8-19


OTTER, IN MY SAILIN' DAYS I REMEMBER TALK OF A PHANTOM-BUT IT WAS A YARN-LIKE DAVY JONES.
IF ONE OF THE BOYS HERE PUT ON THAT MARK FOR A JOKE. WHY GET SO WORKED UP?
OKAY-WHICH ONE? WHICH?

YOU? YOU?
NOT ME.
NOT ME.

WHOEVER DID IT-ADMIT IT! I WON'T DO NOTHIN' TO YOU-BUT I GOTTA KNOW!
WILSON McCOY 8-20

NOBODY WILL ADMIT PUTTING THAT MARK ON THE CASES AND SHIRT-SO I AM GOING THRU THIS JOINT WITH A FINE-TOOTHED COMB--
I WANT TO FIND THE THING THAT MADE THAT MARK. I'LL COVER EVERY INCH OF THIS HIDE-OUT!


AND STRIP DOWN TO YOUR SHORTS-ALL OF YOU GUYS! I'M GOING THRU YOUR POCKETS TOO!
WILSON McCOY 8-21

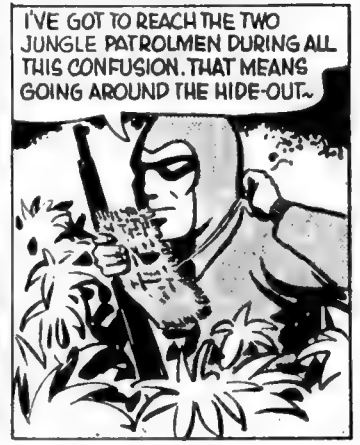
HOW ABOUT YOU?
I DIDN'T LEAVE THE SWAMP TONIGHT, OTTER. I BEEN GUARDING THESE PATROLMEN ALL NIGHT.

SARGE, THIS'D BE A GOOD TIME TO MAKE A BREAK, IF WE WEREN'T TIED UP, AND IF THERE WERE NO GUARDS.
AND IF WE COULD GET THRU THE SWAMP, AND A FEW MORE IFS.

OTTER'S OFF HIS ROCKER-ALL THIS FUSS BECAUSE SOMEBODY MADE A JOKE WITH A SKULL MARK.
WILSON McCOY 8-22

I'VE GOT TO GET TO THOSE PATROLMEN. IT'LL BE TOUGH REMAINING UNSEEN-BUT I MUST TAKE A CHANCE!

HEY, OTTER, THE MOSQUITOES ARE KILLING US!
SHADDOP! I'M GONNA FIND THE THING THAT MADE THAT SKULL MARK IF IT TAKES A WEEK!
WHOEVER DID IT-ADMIT IT-BEFORE OTTER DRIVES US ALL WHACKY!


I'VE GOT TO REACH THE TWO JUNGLE PATROLMEN DURING ALL THIS CONFUSION. THAT MEANS GOING AROUND THE HIDE-OUT~

~INTO THE SWAMP. THAT CAN BE TRICKY IN THE DARK!
WILSON McCOY 8-24

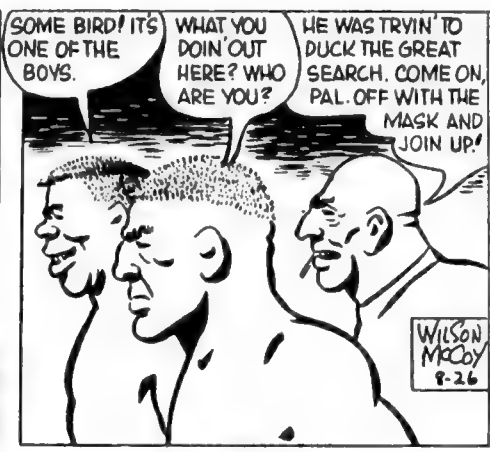
SLIPPERY UNDERFOOT~ ONE FALSE STEP AND IT'S GOODBYE~IN THIS MUCK!
THE PHANTOM

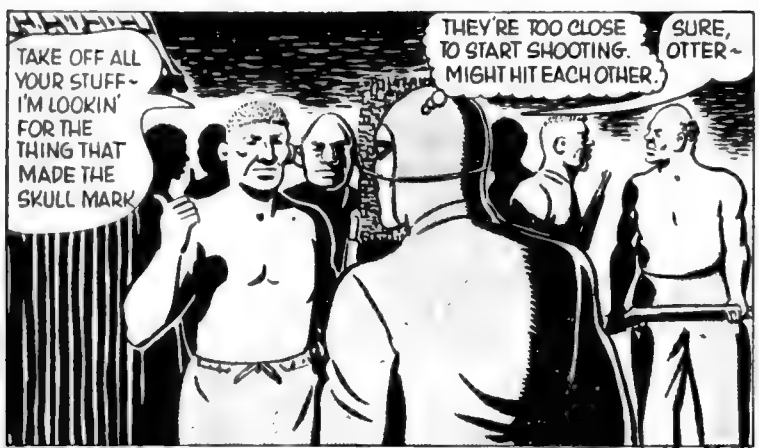
OOPS~THERE IT IS!

LUCKY I SLIPPED HERE~

WHAT'S SHAKING THAT TREE?
WILSON McCOY 8-25

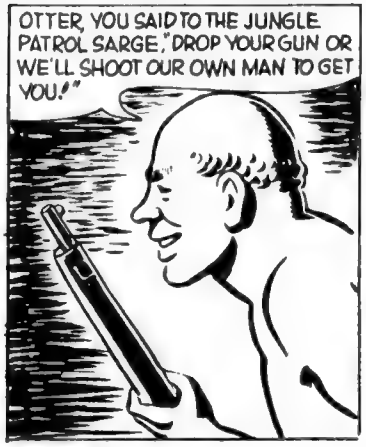
SOMETHING BIG SHOOK THAT TREE~
MAYBE IT WAS A BIG BIRD.


SOME BIRD! IT'S ONE OF THE BOYS.
WHAT YOU DOIN' OUT HERE? WHO ARE YOU?
HE WAS TRYIN' TO DUCK THE GREAT SEARCH. COME ON, PAL. OFF WITH THE MASK AND JOIN UP!
WILSON McCOY 8-26


TAKE OFF ALL YOUR STUFF~ I'M LOOKIN' FOR THE THING THAT MADE THE SKULL MARK.
THEY'RE TOO CLOSE TO START SHOOTING. MIGHT HIT EACH OTHER.
SURE, OTTER~

THEN~ HE MOVES LIKE GREASED LIGHTNING!
UNDER ARREST, OTTER. JUNGLE PATROL. ORDER YOUR MEN TO THROW DOWN THEIR ARMS.
WILSON McCOY 8-27

A PATROLMAN GOT IN HERE-MASKED!
ORDER THEM TO THROW DOWN THEIR GUNS, OTTER!
WE PLAYED THIS BEFORE, ONLY I WAS THE SHIELD-THAT SERGEANT STOOD BEHIND-REMEMBER, OTTER?


OTTER, YOU SAID TO THE JUNGLE PATROL SARGE, "DROP YOUR GUN OR WE'LL SHOOT OUR OWN MAN TO GET YOU!"

I'M SAYING THAT NOW! DROP YOUR GUN, JUNGLE PATROL, OR WE'LL SHOOT OTTER TO GET AT YOU!
WAIT-WAIT!
WILSON McCOY 8-28

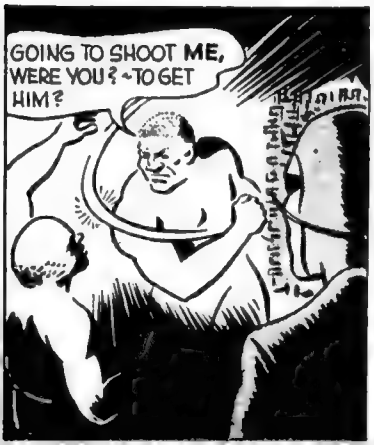
DROP YOUR GUN, JUNGLE PATROL-OR WE'LL SHOOT OTTER TO GET TO YOU!
WAIT, I'M STILL BOSS! I CAN HANDLE THIS!
LOUIE-CAN YOU HEAR ME AT THE PRISON SHACK?

WILSON McCOY 8-29
YEAH, I CAN HEAR YOU, OTTER.
THOSE TWO PATROLMEN ARE TIED UP IN THERE. GO IN AND SHOOT BOTH OF THEM.
!

YOU HEARD ME, LOUIE-WALK IN AND SHOOT THOSE TWO PATROLMEN!
OKAY-OTTER

YOU CAN'T SHOOT US LIKE THIS!
I DON'T WANT TO, BUT ORDERS IS ORDERS.

YOU WIN, OTTER. STOP HIM AT ONCE, AND I'LL DROP MY GUN.
ALL RIGHT, JUNGLE PATROL.
LOUIE-STOP! NO SHOOTING! GOT IT?
MAKE UP YOUR BLASTED MIND!
WILSON McCOY 8-31


GOING TO SHOOT ME, WERE YOU?-TO GET HIM?

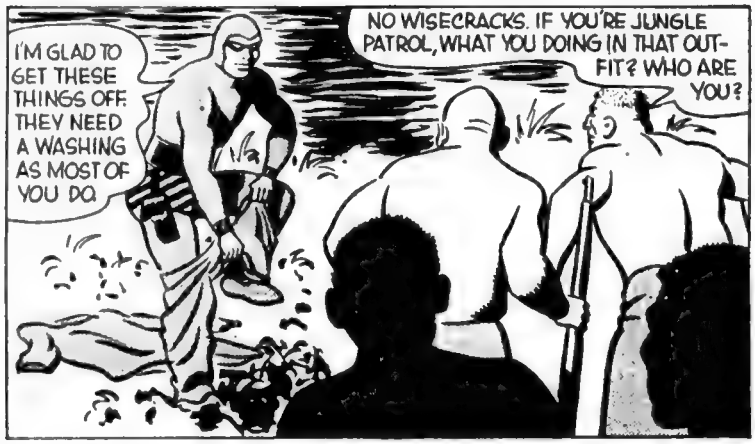
OTTER THROWS ANOTHER POWERFUL RIGHT-
AS FOR YOU, JUNGLE PATROL-SNEAKING IN HERE-WEARING OUR OUTFIT-UH!

-THE PHANTOM STANDS UNMOVED, ABSORBING THE BLOW WITH ALL THE FORCE OF HIS IRON BODY!
GOOD NIGHT! OTTER SOCKED HIM WITH ALL HIS MIGHT!
UH-MY HAND-LIKE HITTING A STONE WALL-
THE GUY DIDN'T EVEN NOTICE IT!
WILSON McCOY 9-1

NO MAN EVER STOOD UP BEFORE AFTER I PUNCHED HIM LIKE THAT, JUNGLE PATROL.
YOU PUNCH NICELY, OTTER.

WHAT YOU GOT UNDER THAT MASK OF OURS~A STEEL PLATE?

TOUGH AS THEY ARE, THEY SHIVER. "BEFORE THE PHANTOM'S FACE, THE BLOOD FREEZES"~OLD JUNGLE SAYING.
WILSON McCOY 9-2


I'M GLAD TO GET THESE THINGS OFF. THEY NEED A WASHING AS MOST OF YOU DO.
NO WISECRACKS. IF YOU'RE JUNGLE PATROL, WHAT YOU DOING IN THAT OUT-FIT? WHO ARE YOU?

YOU GUESSED RIGHT EARLIER~WHEN YOU FOUND MY MARK, OTTER.
I AM KNOWN TO MEN BY MANY NAMES~

ONE OF THEM IS~PHANTOM.
WILSON McCOY 9-3

PHANTOM? THERE'S NO SUCH THING. YOU'RE SOME JOKER IN THAT MONKEY SUIT. TAKE OFF THE MASK OR~~
NO~OTTER~REMEMBER WHAT YOU LEARNED AS A CHILD ABOUT THE PHANTOM'S FACE?

OTTER REMEMBERS~~
HE WHO SEES THE PHANTOM UNMASKED~DIES AT ONCE~HORRIBLY, OTTER.

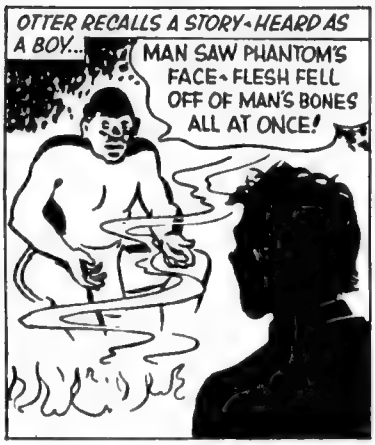
MALARKEY~I DON'T BELIEVE IT~I'M NOT AFRAID!
SURE OTTER?
WILSON McCOY 9-4

WHAT'S ALL THIS, OTTER?
I WAS BORN HERE~YOU GUYS WEREN'T. AS A KID, I HEARD~
~HE WHO SEES THE PHANTOM UNMASKED DIES AT ONCE~HORRIBLY~

OTTER'S WORSE THAN AN OLD WOMAN. THERE ISN'T ANY PHANTOM~
I'LL TAKE OFF THE BLASTED MASK.
WILSON McCOY 9-5

NO~I'M NOT AFRAID~I'LL~TAKE~IT~OFF~

I'M ~ NOT AFRAID TO TAKE OFF THE BLASTED MASK!


OTTER RECALLS A STORY ~ HEARD AS A BOY...
MAN SAW PHANTOM'S FACE ~ FLESH FELL OFF OF MAN'S BONES ALL AT ONCE!

AW ~ WE'RE WASTIN' TIME. TIE HIM UP AND THROW HIM IN THE SWAMP ~ IN A DEEP PLACE!
NONE OF THE REST OF YOU TAKE OFF THAT MASK! I DON'T CARE WHAT HE LOOKS LIKE!
HE'S CHICKEN.
AFRAID OF SPOOKS.
WILSON McCOY 9-7

SO YOU'RE THIS PHANTOM ~ THE GHOST WHO WALKS?
THE MAN WHO CAN-NOT DIE? LIVED 400 YEARS ~ THEY SAY.
STOP ALL THAT CHATTER AND GET ON WITH IT!

START HOPPIN'. WE'LL SEE HOW THE GHOST HANDLES HIMSELF IN THE SWAMP!
WILSON McCOY 9-8

LITTLE DO THE PATROLMEN REALIZE ~ THEIR UNKNOWN COMMANDER!
THEY'RE TAKING HIM INTO THE SWAMP. WONDER WHO HE WAS!

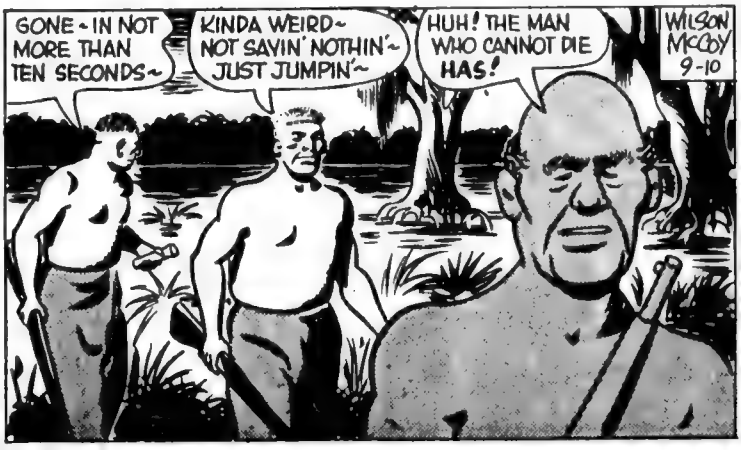
KEEP HOPPIN', GHOST.
FIND A GOOD DEEP PLACE AND THROW HIM IN!
LOOKS LIKE YOUR 400 YEARS ARE ABOUT UP, SPOOK.

THE PHANTOM SUDDENLY LEAPS ~

~ INTO THE DEADLY MUCK OF THE GREAT SWAMP!
WILSON McCOY 9-9

HE JUMPED IN!
~ WITHOUT A WORD!

HE SINKS RAPIDLY IN THE MUCK ~


GONE ~ IN NOT MORE THAN TEN SECONDS ~
KINDA WEIRD ~ NOT SAYIN' NOTHIN' ~ JUST JUMPIN' ~
HUH! THE MAN WHO CANNOT DIE HAS!
WILSON McCOY 9-10

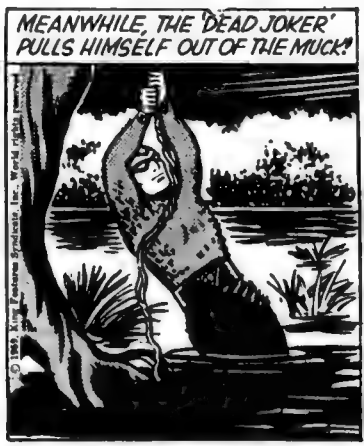
WHY'D HE JUMP LIKE THAT?
WE'LL NEVER KNOW, OTTER~ HE'S GONE~ FOR GOOD!

UNDER THE SWAMP~ THE PHANTOM HOLDS HIS BREATH A FULL MINUTE~~

~THEN SLOWLY PULLS HIMSELF OUT OF THE DEADLY MUCK~
WHEW! THEY'RE GONE! TOOK A BIG CHANCE~
PICKED MY OWN SPOT~ SAW THIS VINE~ JUMPED FOR IT BEFORE THEY COULD PUSH ME SOMEWHERE ELSE~
WILSON McCOY 9-11

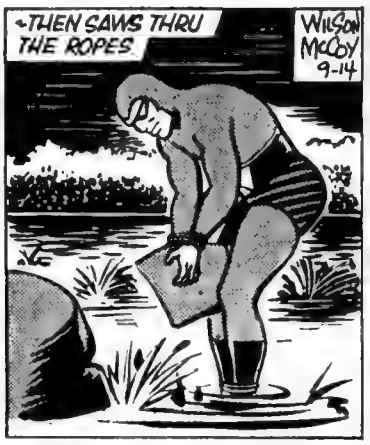
TOSS HIM IN?
TOSS HIM? HE COULDN'T WAIT! JUMPED IN!
THE PHANTOM'S A REAL ONE NOW! OTTER WAS SCARED TO LOOK AT HIS FACE.

KNOCK IT OFF, YOU GUYS! LET'S GET SOME SLEEP AND FORGET THAT DEAD JOKER!
WILSON McCOY 9-12


MEANWHILE, THE 'DEAD JOKER' PULLS HIMSELF OUT OF THE MUCK!

HE WON'T BE PUTTING ANY MORE OF THOSE CRAZY SKULL MARKS ON ANYTHING~~
THE 'MAN WHO NEVER DIES' IS AT THE BOTTOM OF THE OL' SWAMP.
KNOCK IT OFF, YOU GUYS, AND HIT THE SACK.

HE SPLITS A FLAT ROCK
I'M COVERED WITH SWAMP MUCK~ THAT'S BETTER THAN BEING UNDER IT~


~THEN SAWS THRU THE ROPES.
WILSON McCOY 9-14

NIGHT~ THE SWAMP RATS SLEEP~ EXCEPT FOR A SENTRY~

WHAT WAS THAT?

NO~ YOU'RE DEAD!

WILSON McCOY 9-15

ANOTHER HOUR TILL DAWN~THEN MORE SPUDS TO PEEL.
WE'RE GREAT PATROLMEN~COME TO NAB THIS GANG~WIND UP ON PERMANENT KP.
YOU COULD BE AT THE BOTTOM OF THE SWAMP LIKE THAT OTHER MASKED JOKER~

GLUB

?
!
WILSON McCOY 9-16

SOMEBODY SLUGGED OUR GUARD ~ DRAGGED HIM BACK OF THE SHACK!

MAYBE ONE OF THE GANG IS DOUBLE-CROSSIN' THE REST~
OR A RESCUE SQUAD FROM THE PATROL~

FOR A MOMENT, EVEN THE TOUGH PATROLMEN SHIVER AT THE SUDDEN SIGHT OF THE PHANTOM!
THEY THREW YOU INTO THE SWAMP~TIED!
SAID YOU WERE~GULP~DEAD!
WILSON McCOY 9-17

THEY TENSE AS HE BENDS OVER THEM~IS HE FOR OR AGAINST THEM?

WHEW! WHO ARE YOU?
NEVER MIND. WE MUST MOVE FAST.

THE GANG'LL BE AWAKE SOON. TAKE THESE RIFLES AND HIDE IN THE BUSHES UNTIL~
WHOA! WE'RE PATROLMEN ON A MISSION TO NAB THIS CROWD.
EVEN THO YOU'VE HELPED US~WE DON'T TAKE ORDERS FROM YOU!
WILSON McCOY 9-18

AUTHORITY SEEMS TO POUR FROM THIS UNKNOWN MASKED MAN~
I MEAN WE APPRECIATE YOUR FREEING US~BUT WE'RE PATROLMEN UNDER ORDERS~
THANKS FOR THE RIFLES~BUT WE CAN'T OBEY STRANGERS~
YOU WISH TO ARGUE UNTIL OUR ENEMY WAKES UP?

~THE VOICE OF THE RULER OF THE JUNGLE!
DO AS I ASK~IN A FEW MINUTES IT'LL BE TOO LATE~

WHAT YOU THINK, SARGE? MAYBE HE KNOWS BEST~
GEE, I DON'T KNOW~
WILSON McCOY 9-19

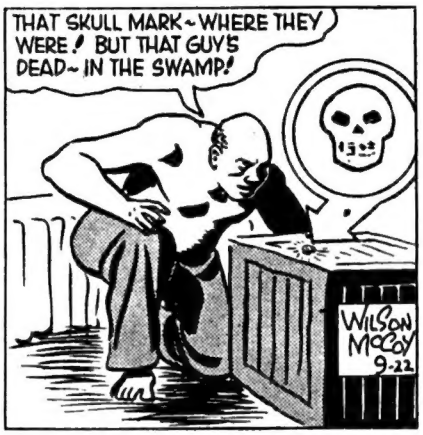
I WANT TO HELP YOU GET THIS GANG. IF WE DON'T ACT AT ONCE, WE'LL NEVER GET OUT OF THIS SWAMP ALIVE.
SARGE, HE FREED US AND GOT US GUNS ~
OKAY ~ YOU'RE THE BOSS.

HIDE IN THOSE BUSHES, SARGE. JONES, ON THE OTHER SIDE. FIRE THREE SHOTS WHEN I CALL.
HOW'D YOU GET OUT OF THE SWAMP?
WILSON McCOY 9-21

I CLIMBED OUT.
CLIMBED?
HOW'D HE KNOW MY NAME!

THE GUNS OF THE PHANTOM ~

A LITTLE LATER ~
YAHH ~ (YAWN) HEY ~ THOSE GUNS ARE GONE!


THAT SKULL MARK ~ WHERE THEY WERE! BUT THAT GUY'S DEAD ~ IN THE SWAMP!
WILSON McCOY 9-22

HEY ~ UH!

ANOTHER DAY ~ ANOTHER ~ HUH ~ THAT'S PETE! WHAT'S HE DOING ON THE GROUND?

SKULL MARK!

CAN'T BE! I SAW THE GUY JUMP INTO THE SWAMP ~ TIED! HEY ~!

UHH
WILSON McCOY 9-23

DAWN ~ AND THE SWAMP RATS BEGIN TO WAKE UP

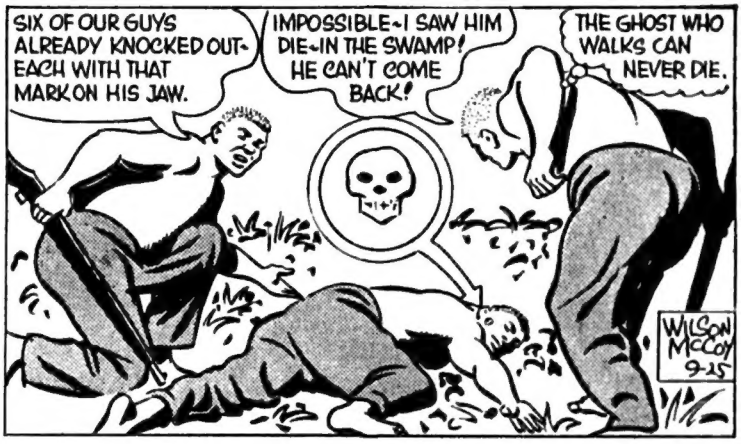
~ AND MANY GO RIGHT BACK TO SLEEP AGAIN ~

~ AS THE IRON PHANTOM FIST PARTS ABOUT LIKE AN ANGRY PILE DRIVER!

HE'S MOVIN' AROUND SO FAST I CAN'T FOLLOW HIM ~ LIKE A ONE-MAN EPIDEMIC!
WILSON McCOY 9-24

OTTER~ WAKE UP!
UH~WHA~~ WHAZAMATTA~ UH?

HE'S BACK! THE MASKED GUY WE DROPPED IN THE SWAMP! HIS MARK'S ALL OVER THE PLACE!

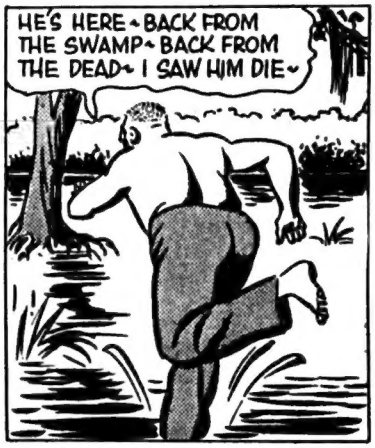

SIX OF OUR GUYS ALREADY KNOCKED OUT~ EACH WITH THAT MARK ON HIS JAW.
IMPOSSIBLE~I SAW HIM DIE~IN THE SWAMP! HE CAN'T COME BACK!
THE GHOST WHO WALKS CAN NEVER DIE.
WILSON McCOY 9-25

HIS GUNS WERE ON THAT BOX. LOOK WHAT'S THERE NOW!
SKULL MARK!

LOOK~ON LOUIE'S JAW~ SKULL MARK!
LOUIE! HE WAS GUARDING THE PATROLMEN!

THE PATROLMEN ARE GONE!
ON THE FLOOR WHERE THEY WERE~THAT MARK!
WILSON McCOY 9-26

HE FREED THE PATROLMEN~ THEY'RE OUTSIDE WITH RIFLES.
YOU LAUGHED WHEN I SAID "GHOST WHO WALKS CANNOT DIE"~PHANTOM~HE'S COME BACK!
OTTER'S GONE HAYWIRE!

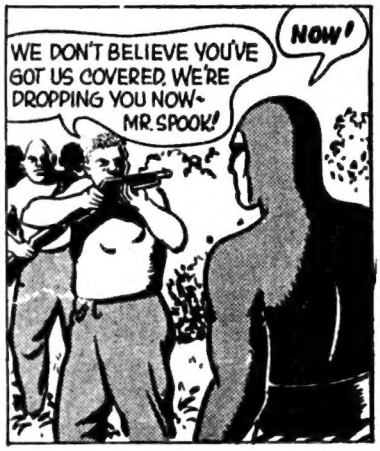

HE'S HERE~BACK FROM THE SWAMP~BACK FROM THE DEAD~I SAW HIM DIE~

GHOST WHO WALKS CANNOT UH~
WILSON McCOY 9-28

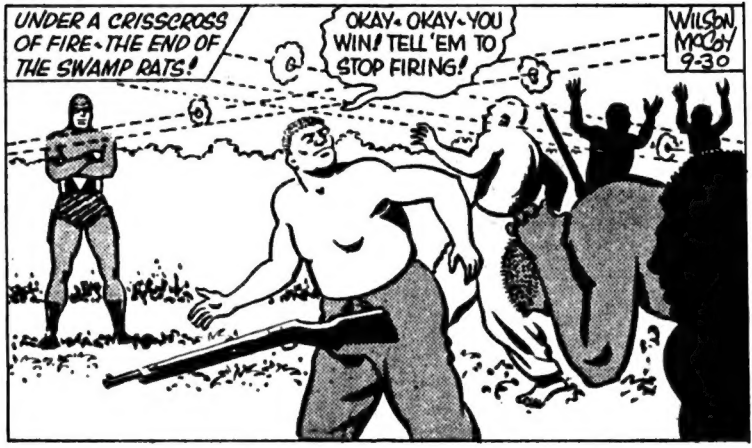
DON'T TOUCH ME~YOU'RE DEAD~I SAW YOU DIE IN THE SWAMP~UH~~

FAINTED~
UH~

MAYBE~YOU GOT OUT OF THE SWAMP~YOU CAN'T DUCK THIS LEAD~WHOEVER YOU ARE!
DROP YOUR RIFLES~YOU'RE ALL COVERED! YOU'LL BE PICKED OFF LIKE FISH IN A BARREL!
WILSON McCOY 9-29


WE DON'T BELIEVE YOU'VE GOT US COVERED. WE'RE DROPPING YOU NOW- MR. SPOOK!
NOW!

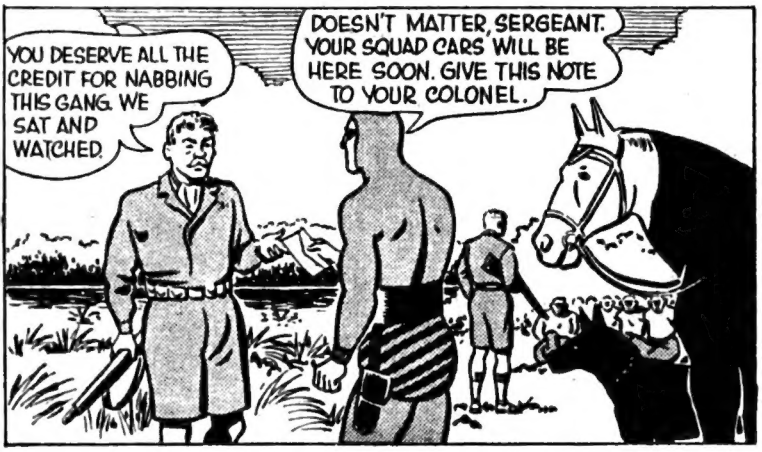
FROM EITHER SIDE, SARGE AND JONES FIRE-

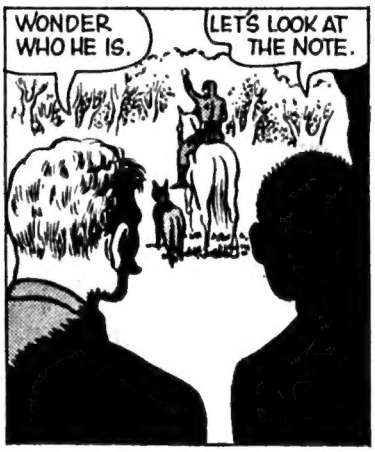

UNDER A CRISSCROSS OF FIRE- THE END OF THE SWAMP RATS!
OKAY- OKAY- YOU WIN! TELL 'EM TO STOP FIRING!
WILSON McCOY 9-30

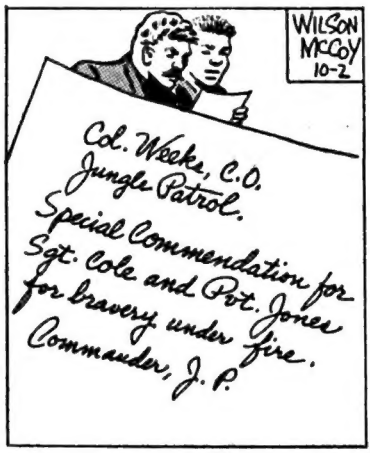
THE GUYS HE HIT HAVE BEEN OUT FOR HOURS! WHEN HE HITS- HE HITS!
WE STILL DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE-
DOESN'T MATTER, SARGE. YOU CAN RADIO YOUR HQ FROM YOUR JEEP.

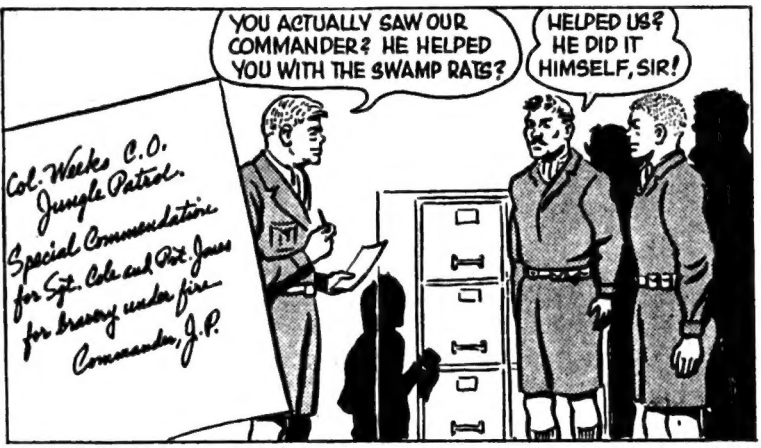
COL. WEEKS? SERGEANT COLE REPORTING. WE HAVE THE WHOLE SWAMP RAT GANG- TWENTY-FOUR!

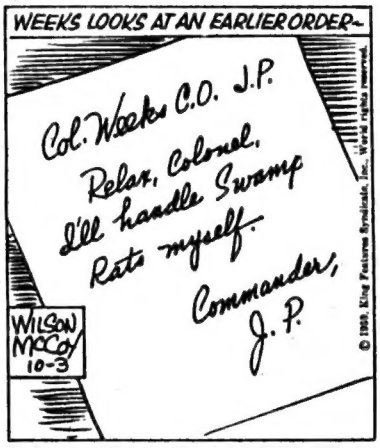
-A MASKED MAN HELPED YOU? WHO?
NEVER MIND-- YOU'VE GOT THE GANG? CONGRATULATIONS! WE'LL BE RIGHT THERE!
WILSON McCOY 10-1


YOU DESERVE ALL THE CREDIT FOR NABBING THIS GANG. WE SAT AND WATCHED.
DOESN'T MATTER, SERGEANT. YOUR SQUAD CARS WILL BE HERE SOON. GIVE THIS NOTE TO YOUR COLONEL.


WONDER WHO HE IS.
LET'S LOOK AT THE NOTE.


WILSON McCOY 10-2
Col. Weeks, C.O. Jungle Patrol. Special Commendation for Sgt. Cole and Pvt. Jones for bravery under fire. Commander, J. P.


YOU ACTUALLY SAW OUR COMMANDER? HE HELPED YOU WITH THE SWAMP RATS?
HELPED US? HE DID IT HIMSELF, SIR!
Col. Weeks C.O. Jungle Patrol. Special Commendation for Sgt. Cole and Pvt. Jones for bravery under fire. Commander, J.P.


WEEKS LOOKS AT AN EARLIER ORDER-
Col. Weeks C.O. J.P. Relax, Colonel. I'll handle Swamp Rats myself. Commander, J. P.
WILSON McCOY 10-3
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IN TWO CENTURIES, NO PATROLMAN HAS EVER SEEN THE COMMANDER! WHAT DID HE LOOK LIKE?
UH- HE WAS MASKED-
NEXT WEEK: NEW ADVENTURE